

EXERCISE EXERCISE EXERCISE EXERCISE

Montana Department of Military Affairs
Disaster & Emergency Services Division
State Emergency Coordination Center
JFHQ-MT

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Situation Report for September 16, 2009 (issued @ 1500 hrs.)

MONTANA VIGILANT GUARD 09 EXERCISE
HELENA EARTHQUAKE EXERCISE
(Incident # MTVGEX)

*****updated information in bold type*****

I. - **Background Information**

- 6.5 Earthquake reported S.E. of Helena on the Prickly Pear Fault at 0845 **on 9/15.**
- 4-county area including Lewis and Clark, Broadwater, Silverbow, and Jefferson counties impacted.
- Aftershocks occurred in Butte (5.2) and Helena (6.3) around **1030 on 9/15.**
- **USGS reported an aftershock (6.0) at 0317 on 9/16 north of Helena Valley Regulating Reservoir. Aftershock caused further extensive damage.**

II. - **Current Conditions**

- Conoco Phillips pipeline ruptured south of Helena Regional Airport. **HAZMAT personnel reports massive damage to the pipeline.**
- Buildings and infrastructure in 4-county area damaged or collapsed with hundreds trapped and injured. **Some fatalities occurred and massive displacement of residents.**
- Power, water, sewer facilities and fiber optics are damaged throughout affected area.
- Snapped natural gas pipeline and electrical transmission lines **caused** numerous fires in Helena.
- Bellmont tower providing cell phone and repeater communication has collapsed.
- Evacuations are being implemented (444-3060).
- **Road conditions are continuously changing. Travel into Helena is restricted to emergency resources only. Travel outbound from Helena is not restricted.**
Highway conditions: **US 12 open from Helena over McDonald Pass with a detour near Avon;** MT 141 and 200 are open ; US 12 east to East Helena is open; MT 69 is open Whitehall to Boulder; **I-15 north of Helena is detoured at the Augusta exchange.** I-15 south of Helena is passable but traffic is diverted around overpasses. (511 System has been updated to reflect current conditions). **The 9/16 early morning**

aftershock caused numerous bridge collapses.

- **Rail traffic through Helena has been interrupted. A derailment occurred in East Helena approximately 1420 on 9-16; HAZMAT support was ordered.**
- **Red Cross has been mobilized, and has set up emergency shelters in Lewis and Clark County.**
- **Dams potentially affected by the earthquake have been ordered to be immediately inspected.**
- **The 6.0 aftershock north of Helena Valley Regulating Reservoir at 0317. The aftershock caused leaks in the Helena Valley Regulating Reservoir and the Chessman Reservoir prompting initiation of the flood evacuation plans. Aftershock also caused additional damage to structures throughout the affected area. Due to extensive damage, emergency service and HAZMAT teams have been deployed to various locations.**
- **Helena Airport terminal collapsed following the early morning aftershock on 9/16, approximately 50 people are trapped in the rubble. Firefighting is ongoing for an aviation fuel fire at the airport. Airport is non-functional.**
- **Avalanche has occurred at Marysville water system while being repaired; 3 trapped people can only be accessed by air.**
- **Butte water system storage is damaged; system services 38,000 residences. City has requested National Guard water purification system. Water is leaking from the damaged Berkley Pit.**
- **Jefferson County reported a fire at the Boulder Research Facility in Boulder. National Guard is on site to secure this drug research facility and a HAZMAT team has been requested.**
- **One hundred patients from St. Peters and VA hospital and the EMEDS at Carroll College are being evacuated to hospitals outside the area.**
- **Montana National Guard has requested assistance from the following National Guard units: Wyoming Joint Task Force (JTF), Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosive Task Force (CBRNE), Fixed and Floating Bridge Unit, and a JISCC Communications Trailer; Search and Rescue Units (CERF) from Nebraska and Missouri; 4 Medical Transport Companies, a Light Transport Company, and Quarter Master Company from Nebraska; and Military Police Battalion from Utah; Civil Support Team (CST) from North Dakota; Idaho Water Purification Unit (ROWPU). 2 Blackhawk helicopters from Colorado; ROWPU Quarter Master Company from Nevada.**

III. - Summary of Resources Committed

- **EOC activated at 0851 on 9/15.**
- **Search and Rescue teams activated.**
- **SECC Planning has activated the following state ESFS: ESF 1-Transportation, ESF 3- Public Works, EFS 5-Emergency Management, ESF 6- Mass Care, ESF 7- Logistics, ESF 8- Health and Medical, ESF 15- External Affairs.**
- **Joint Incident Command (JIC) activated at Ft. Harrison on 9/15 at 0928.**
- **National Guard units Wyoming 84th Civil Support Team (CST), Search and Extraction Unit (CERF) from Colorado, and a Helicopter and crew from Idaho are currently on the Incident.**

IV. - Declarations

- Lewis and Clark requested declaration for State and Federal assistance 0900 **on 9/15**.
- EOCs for Lewis and Clark, Jefferson, Broadwater and Silverbow counties activated between 0900 and 1000. **Broadwater County EOC operations were completed at 1605 on 9/15.**
- **On 9/15** at 0910 Governor Schweitzer authorizes a request to FEMA .
- Executive Order signed by Governor Brian Schweitzer declaring an emergency within Jefferson, Broadwater and Lewis and Clark Counties. The order also included the cities of Townsend, Helena, and Boulder.
- **On 9/15** at 1420, President Obama made an Emergency Declaration for the affected counties allowing for federal assistance for work in (A) debris removal, (B) emergency protective measures and **(C) direct federal assistance.**

MT DES will continue to monitor conditions and its staff will provide incident and assessment support. The MT DES staff Duty Officer is available 24 hrs and may be reached at (406) 841-3911.